

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended, and claim 68 has been newly added. Claims 30-39 and 53-55 have been withdrawn. In addition, the specification has been amended. Claims 1-29, 40-52, and 56-68 are actively pending. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

The specification has been objected to. Applicants have amended the specification to correct a typographical error and clarify the meaning of EDM. Applicants believe that the objection to the specification is overcome.

Claims 4, 7, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicants amended claim 25 as suggested by the Examiner and believe the rejection of claim 25 has been overcome. Applicants respectfully traverse, however, the rejection of claims 4 and 7.

The grounds for finding claims 4 and 7 indefinite are that the members of the Markush groups allegedly overlap. The MPEP, however, states that "the double inclusion of an element by members of a Markush group is not, in itself, sufficient basis for objection to or rejection of claims." "The mere fact that a compound may be embraced by more than one member of a Markush group recited in the claim does not necessarily render the scope of the claim unclear." MPEP § 2173.05(h), pg. 2100-207. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 7 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-29, 40-52, and 56-67 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of PCT publication WO 98/52224 to Pedersen et al. ("Pedersen") and US Patent No. 6,406,636 to Vaganov ("Vaganov"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner noted that the step of depositing a layer of resilient material and the step of patterning the resilient material occur simultaneously in Pedersen. Claim 1 now states that the step of patterning the resilient material occurs after the step of depositing the resilient material. The simultaneous performance of these two steps, as in Pedersen, does not, therefore meet the requirements of claim 1. Vaganov, which was cited solely for its teachings regarding stamping, also does not teach these requirements of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Pedersen and Vaganov.

Claims 2-29, 40-52, and 56-68 depend from claim 1 and therefore also patentably distinguish over Pedersen and Vaganov. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional requirements that further distinguish over Pedersen and Vaganov. For example, new dependent

claim 68 states that the "step of patterning comprises removing a portion of said resilient material deposited in said second depositing step." Neither Pedersen nor Vaganov teaches such a requirement. Thus, dependent claims 2-29, 40-52, and 56-68 are also patentable.

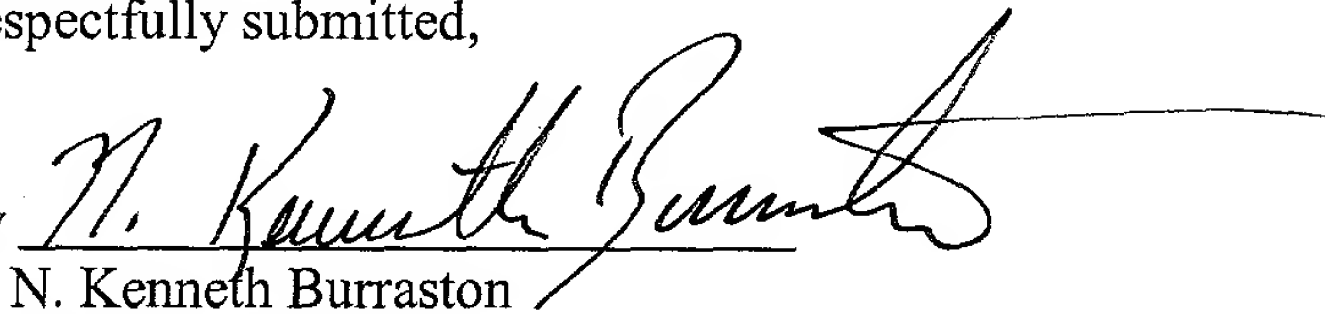
Before closing, Applicants note that independent claim 1 and most of the dependent claims do not require forming the molded surface using a stamping tool. Indeed, those claims do not place any limitations on forming the molded surface. Those claims are generic to the various species listed in the restriction requirement.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 536-6763.

Respectfully submitted,

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